

# History and memory Nantes and slavery

ABOLITION  
ESCLAVAGE

MÉMORIAL DE L'ABOLITION DE L'ESCLAVAGE  
NANTES

... → **Memorial to the abolition of slavery:**



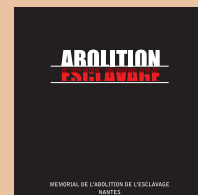
## The commemorative path (open air)

- Where are we? **Along the river Loire, on the bank.**
- What is the message of the glass plaques? **They bear the names of the ships which took part to the triangular trade and which left from Nantes**

## The meditative path (underground)

- Where are we ? What can you see / hear? What is the aim of this atmosphere ?  
**We are underground next to the river Loire. We can hear and see the water. The aim is to make us feel as if we were in a ship.**
- What word is displayed in 50 languages? **Freedom**
- What's written on the huge glass plaque? Quote one short example: **There are extracts of texts, novels, declaration which speak about slavery.**

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- Using the key historical dates, describe in a few words what has been the role of the city of Nantes regarding slavery. Why can it be said that Nantes is facing up to its history?

*Nantes organised 43% of French slave-trading expeditions (or a total of 5 to 6% of Europe's Atlantic slave trade). In just over a century, ships from Nantes transported more than 550,000 captive black people to the colonies. During the 18th century, Nantes became France's largest slave port. Shipowners, bankers, industrialists, traders, shopkeepers, shipbuilders and sailors all benefited to varying degrees from the trade.*

*In 2012, the Memorial was built in homage to all those who fought in the past, fight today and will fight in the future against slavery.*

## ... → The Victor Schoelcher footbridge :

- Who was Victor Scholcher?

*Victor Schoelcher (1804-1893) was a French politician and abolitionist. He worked for the abolition of slavery which was voted in France in 1848.*

- What is the modern building facing the footbridge? Explain the symbol.

*It is the Courthouse (built in 2000) in which justice is given. It faces the memorial to slavery to remind everybody there are still injustices in our modern world but that things can improve thanks to Justice.*

## ... → Quai de la Fosse:

- What used to be done here? *Goods going to or coming from the colonies were loaded or unloaded.*
- What is the link with slavery?

*The goods leaving Nantes were used to buy slaves on the African coast.*

*The goods coming from the colonies were produced thanks to slaves used as labor force.*

- What important places for economic activity are next to this quay?

*Shops and Labour council (Bourse du travail).*

## ... → Ile Feydeau : 18th century

- Describe the buildings. What social class could live here?

*They are fine and expensive buildings. They sheltered people belonging to the upper social class.*

- Make the link between these buildings and the triangular trade.

*The buildings were built by the rich merchants, traders and shipowners who earned money thanks to the triangular trade.*

- A 'mascaron' ornament is a face carved on a building. Describe or draw one mascaron.